

Detroit club won't admit left-wing paper reporter

DETROIT
The Detroit Press Club voted 6-5 not to admit a communist newspaper's reporter to membership.

The press club board of directors blackballed William Allan, veteran correspondent of the *Daily World*, in November and declined to reconsider its decision at a December meeting. Both votes were 6-5.

Jack Crellin, city editor of the *Detroit News*, led opposition to admitting Allan. Neal Shine, city editor of the *Free Press*, favored admitting Allan as a newspaperman.

Allan, born in Scotland, entered journalism through the labor movement in the early 1930s in Detroit. He was with a labor paper before joining the staff of the old *Daily Worker* in the 1930s. He was also editor of the *Michigan Worker* when it was being published.

The *Daily World*, owned by Long View Publishing Co. in New York, has been in business about six months. Its masthead says it traces its journalistic lineage to the *Ohio Socialist* (1918), the *Toiler* (1918), the *Worker* (1922), the *Daily Worker* (1924) and the *Worker* (1958). In its publication schedule it skips Sunday, Monday and Christmas, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, Labor Day and July Fourth.

(The principal editors are John Pittman, Carl Winter and Simon W. Gerson.)

Friends acknowledge that Allan usually follows the Communist Party line on big issues, but they enjoy his pungent press conference questioning and report that he has a lively, well-developed sense of humor.

The position of the majority on the press club board is that Allan is a communist and therefore should be barred or that he is a propagandist.

The press club has sought to deny active memberships to all but working journalists in recent years but still has active members from public relations and allied fields.

Feelings on the Allan issue have run high among Detroit journalists. About a dozen *Free Press* reporters and editors signed a petition threatening to quit the club if it persisted in its ban. About two dozen signed a less sharp petition which said:

"Whereas the Detroit Press Club is replete with capitalist journalists, capitalist publicists, capitalist politicians and just

"And whereas, there is not a single publicly admitted communist in its membership; . . .

"And whereas . . . we often find the present non-exchange of non-deeds that takes place at the press club between the capitalists boring as hell;

"We therefore petition the board of governors . . . to admit William Allan. . . ."

Several *Detroit News* staff members also have signed a petition urging Allan's admission.